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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 594  
By Fowler

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the work of Inner City Ministries, Inc. of Chattanooga and Hamilton County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are proud to recognize the positive contributions of those faith-based organizations that have been organized to meet the spiritual, physical and social development of inner city youth and, in partnership with local churches and other concerned organizations, to serve the needs of low income families and individuals; and

WHEREAS, one such dynamic organization is Inner City Ministries, Inc., a not-for-profit service organization incorporated in 1972 in Chattanooga; Inner City Ministries serves people having an average per capita income of \$9,792 who come from all areas of Hamilton County; and

WHEREAS, Inner City Ministries developed from the efforts of a small group of people who banded together during the 1960s to combat the effects of poverty and racism, at first through recreational work with children in a downtown housing project; the 1972 incorporation

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was designated as Inner City Missions and the organization received its present name in 1981, when it was centered in the Fort Negley area off Main Street; and

WHEREAS, In 1986, Inner City Ministries acquired the abandoned Salvation Army building in East Chattanooga, which was located across the street from the Harriet Tubman Housing Development; and

WHEREAS, Inner City Ministries has since developed advanced programs to meet basic human needs and to work with youth; these programs include the Mercy Ministry, which provides food, clothing and financial assistance; the Legal Clinic, which provides volunteer legal assistance from local attorneys; the Dental Clinic, which provides restorative and preventive dental care, is augmented through a three-year partnership with the Dental Department at Chattanooga State Technical Community College, the Chattanooga Area Dental Society, and the Alliance to the Chattanooga Area Dental; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to break the hold of poverty, broken homes, child abuse, drug abuse and violence on the lives of inner city children, Inner City Ministries organized the Inner City Christian Academy in 1999; the Academy now has 46 students in Grades K-2 with a full-time administrator, three teachers, three paraprofessionals and a dietitian; and

WHEREAS, partnering with the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, the Academy is implementing the Core Knowledge Curriculum, including language arts, history, geography, mathematics, science and the fine arts; the Inner City Christian Academy should receive state certification by the 2002-2003 school year and be certified as a Core Knowledge School by the 2004-2005 school year; and

WHEREAS, the Academy's after-school program for elementary children is growing, and the structured tutoring program will soon be expanded to include tutoring for parents; other activities include a weekly Bible story group, Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops, computer classes and a full recreation program that includes organized team sports; and

WHEREAS, over the years the services of dedicated volunteers serving as board members, officers of the board, and executive directors has contributed much to the success of Inner City Ministries, Inc.; the original board members named in 1972 were David E. Mitchell, President; Samuel H. Chester, Jr., Vice President; Rudolph F. Schmidt, Secretary; Nicholas P. Barker; Alfred F. Pedigo; Edwin L. Worstall, Jr., with Hugh O. Maclellan, Jr. and Robert F. Huffaker being added later that same year; and

WHEREAS, current board members include Philip Whitfield, President; Jeffrey Hollingsworth; Dr. Nicholas Barker; Anne Davis; Margaret Ferguson; Robert Franklin; Thomas Gifford; and James Miller. Board Chairmen of Inner City Ministries, Inc. through the years include David E. Miller, Nicholas P. Barker, Robert Huffaker, Sr., Jerry Sheffield, Phil Lynch, Alton Chapman, Tom Gifford, Michael McReynolds, Scott Brown and Philip Whitfield, and the Executive Directors have been Rev. Randy Nabors, James Coad, Paul Moser, Alton Chapman, Sr., Darryl Starnes, Eric Waldon, with Ronald B. Cook, Sr. currently serving in that capacity; and

WHEREAS, the dedication and commitment of Inner City Ministries, Inc. to the needy families and at-risk youth of Chattanooga and Hamilton County have made a real positive difference in the lives of those they serve and, as such, their work is worthy of our enthusiastic approval and thanks; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we extend our heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation to the officers, board members, staff, and volunteers of the many fine programs of Inner City Ministries, Inc. for their exemplary dedication to the people and youth of Chattanooga and Hamilton County over the past 30 years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we offer our best wishes to Inner City Ministries, Inc. for every success in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.